

MONROE, I.A.

NEWS-STAR

E - 15,121

NOV 12 1975

CIA And George Bush

Years will have to pass before the Central Intelligence Agency and other government investigative agencies will be able to live down the excesses and abuses they engaged in during the terms of at least five presidents.

Sufficient evidence has been produced in the various investigations to prove the spy agencies at times have been guilty of unethical and even illegal conduct.

Recognizing that corrective measures are needed to see that similar gross abuses are not repeated does not mean the pendulum should swing so far that intelligence gathering is virtually stifled. If some of the more severe critics of the CIA and other agencies are listened to, that could be the result.

Hampering legitimate intelligence gathering activities, especially during a period when the United States is placing much trust in policies of detente and disarmament, could prove exceedingly harmful to the nation. The nation does not need intelligence tyrants, but it does need an efficient and reliable intelligence system. It would be well to keep that in mind as the period of criticism of past abuses runs its course and new management is being considered.

President Ford has ousted William Colby as CIA director and named George Bush, U. S. Ambassador to Peking, to run the nation's foreign intelligence shield.

Now, Colby is a professional spy, and good at his job. Most of the CIA wrongdoing uncovered by the Church Committee occurred before he became director.

Colby knew that he was to be replaced, but he had no idea it would be so soon. Actually, he has been

investigating committees get through with their probes. He agreed to do so, which was a patriotic thing to do. After being canned by the President, he could have left town and never looked back.

The reasons for Colby's dismissal are obscure, except that Ford wanted "my guys" in more Cabinet and sub-Cabinet posts.

Democrats are criticizing the choice of Bush to replace Colby, saying Bush is a politician, a former chairman of the National Republican Committee, and that we need a CIA director who is independent, capable of saying no to the President. Former CIA Director Richard Helms, it will be recalled, said it was very hard for him to say no to the President of the United States when asked to do something having an unethical or illegal odor about it.

Bush is an attractive GOP politician and could do well in the CIA post. But expertise should have been more on the President's mind in making such an appointment. Clarence Kelley had a fine reputation as law enforcement officer before he took over the FBI. Since the CIA is charged with providing information on what our enemies are up to, do we not need a man who has been in the field, who knows what it's like to prowl the shadowy byways that constitute the spy's world?

The U. S. doesn't really need a politician in such a post, but a combination of politician and practiced operative. We disagree that the agency would be better off by going outside for a director. The appointment of Bush isn't a disaster. Neither is it the smartest move President Ford ever made.